

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that all pending claims (i.e., claims 19, 20, 22-28 and 30-41) have been allowed. Applicants respectfully submit that the clarifying amendments described below have been made without prejudice and do not effect the scope of the allowed claims. Accordingly, it is Applicants' position that no estoppel may arise from these changes as the scope of the allowed claims have not been narrowed.

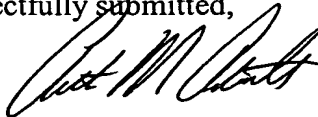
Applicants submit herewith six (6) sheets of formal drawings, reflecting drawing corrections to FIGS. 4 and 5, as requested by the Examiner. In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to FIG. 4 and FIG. 5, because numerals 12 and 16, "are modified versions of the previously shown slot component, and it seems that they should be changed to --12'-- and 16' or the like." (Office Action, page two, lines 14-15). In response, element numbers 12 and 16 in FIGS. 4 and 5 have been changed without prejudice to 12' and 16', respectively.

The specification was objected to for informalities with respect to element numbers 12 and 16 when describing the embodiments shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, for the same reasons the drawings were objected to. Applicants have amended the specification without prejudice as suggested by the Examiner to address these informalities.

Applicants respectfully believe that all formal matters described in the Office Action have been addressed, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be greatly appreciated. Should any issues remain, a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed to be due for the submission of this response. Should any fees be required, please charge such fees to Pennie & Edmonds LLP deposit account no. 16-1150.

Respectfully submitted,



Date September 12, 2002

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Enclosures



APPENDIX A
MARKED UP VERSION OF DRAWINGS



APPENDIX B
SUBSTITUTE FORMAL DRAWINGS



APPENDIX C
MARKED UP VERSION OF REVISED SPECIFICATION PARAGRAPHS

Paragraph beginning on page 5, line 22 and ending on page 6, line 2:

-- The tool shown in FIGS. 4 and 5 comprises a clamping mechanism 30 and a cutting unit 16' which is of the same general nature as that shown in FIGS. 2a-2c. As shown, the cutting unit 16' is inserted into a space 31 between a U-shaped entrance frame 17 and the casing 15 of clamping mechanism 30. As shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, a plate 3c to be cut is inserted through the U-shaped frame 17 through the aperture or slot 12' in cutting unit 16' and then into the clamping unit 30 through aperture 32.--

Paragraph beginning on page 6, line 21 and ending on page 7, line 3:

-- In FIG. 5 the clamping mechanism is shown in the closed state. If sliding assembly 22a is drawn backwards, clamping mechanism 18 runs up on the clamping curve 23 because it is positively connected to the sliding unit 22a. The rod 22c is then driven into the shoe 18b telescopically. A slight torsion cannot be prevented, but this is not deleterious for cutting quality because the true cut occurs at the edges of the plate insertion hole 25 and is performed by the plate cutting unit 16' and the thrust-bearing casing 15 which is placed on a flat surface.--

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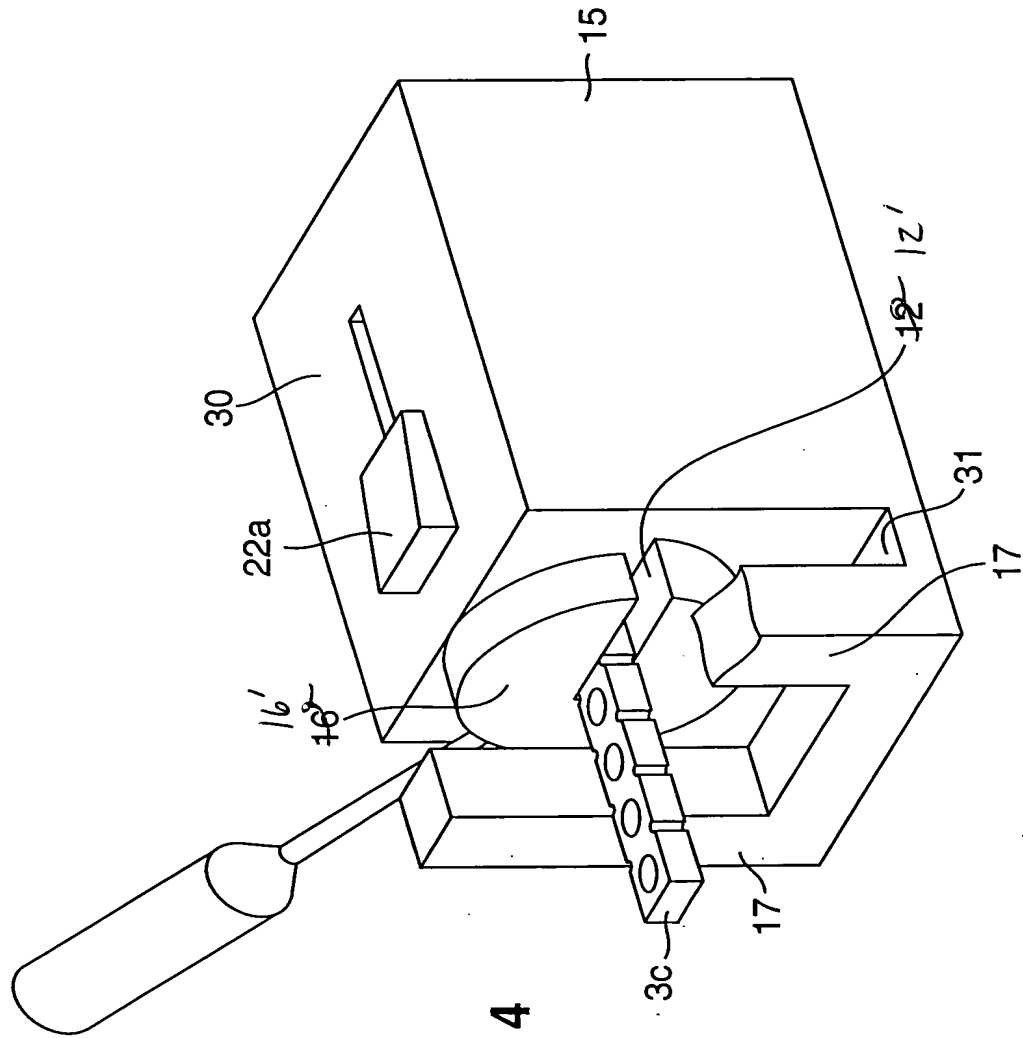


FIG. 4

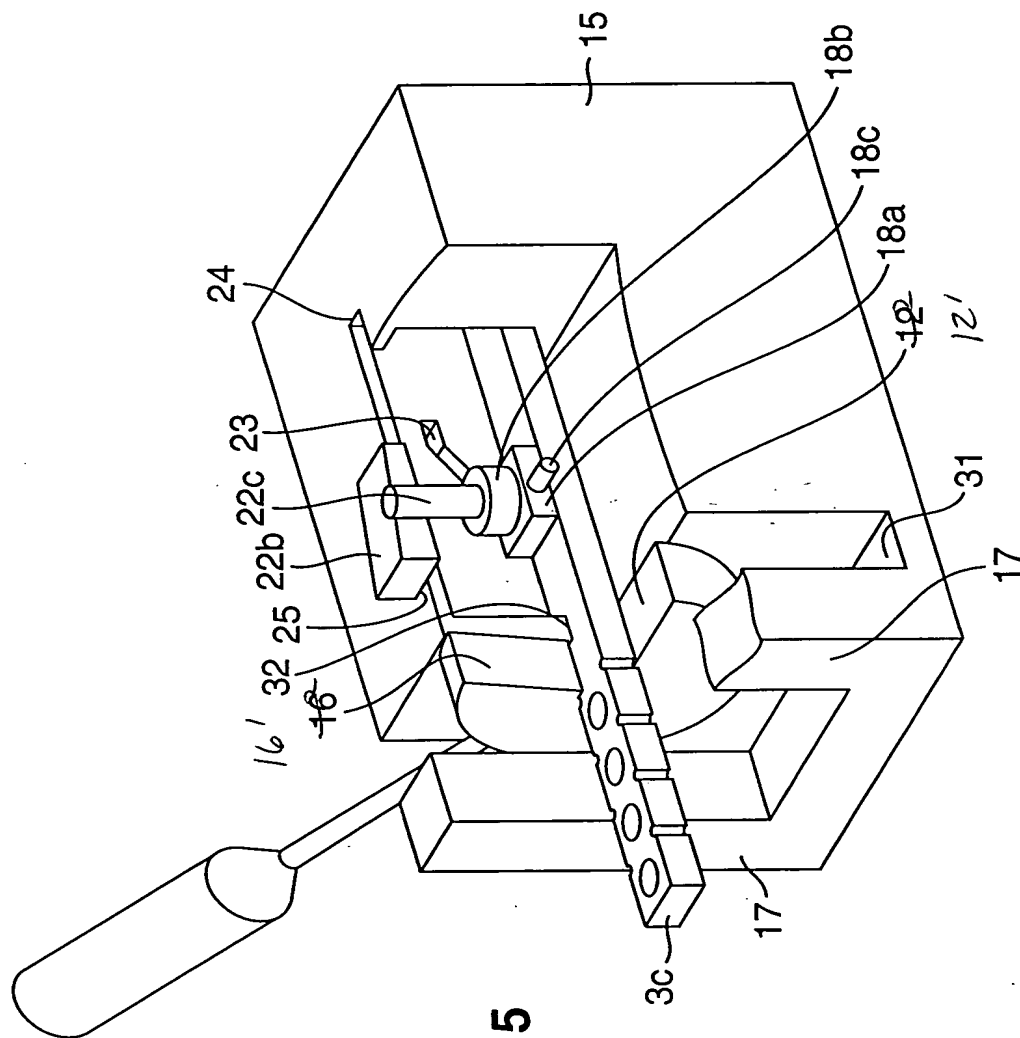


FIG. 5